

Upazila roundup

BRAHMANBARIA

Adverse effect of drug abuse discussed

July 6: A discussion meeting on drug abuse and smoking was held at the local government college auditorium under the auspices of Islamic foundation unit here, reports UNB.

The speakers dwelt at length on the adverse effect of drug abuse among the people in general and youths in particular. They called upon the government to take stringent action against the drug traffickers.

Most of the medicine shopowners have been selling sedatives to the addicts with impunity in the town and other parts of the district vitiating the serene atmosphere, they said adding that an influential quarter is engaged in smuggling spurious drugs in the country for a long time.

The meeting chaired by Principal Shahjahan Chowdhury was also addressed by Md Muniruzzaman, Abul Kashem Bhuiyan, Majibur Rahman, Abdul Khaleque.

Cattle lifter arrested

Police arrested a cattle lifter with six cows from Sreerampur village of Nabinagar upazila here.

Acting on a secret information, police nabbed notorious cattle lifter Abdul Motalib alias Munir Hossain while he was on way to Dhaka by an engine boat. Motalib hails from Dhaka district.

Police also seized the boat and a case has been filed in this connection.

MANIKGANJ

Dacoits loot valuables worth Tk 50,000

July 6: Valuables worth about Taka 50,000 were looted in a dacoity in Sadar upazila, police said here today, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a gang of dacoits numbering 10 to 12, equipped with fire arms raided the house of Abdul Bashar of village Porapara on June 28 and decamped with gold ornaments, watches and other belongings before sundown.

The miscreants also beat up two inmates of the house Alia Begum (15), and Azad (8), when they tried to raise alarm.

A case was registered with Manikganj police in this connection.

MAULVI BAZAR

Work on 10 projects in progress

July 6: Work is fast progressing on at least 10 projects taken up by the Sreemangal Pourashava of the district, reports UNB.

The projects are expected to be completed by December next.

Official sources said Taka 43 lakh would be utilised for implementation of the projects. The projects have been taken up under the post-flood rehabilitation programmes during the current year.

A vast tract of land in Manumukh bazar under Sadar upazila of the district has been eroded by the river Monu during the last few weeks.

A food godown and a mosque have also gone into the river. The erosion is still continuing in an alarming proportion.

Every year thousands of acres of land are devoured by the river. Local people urged the authorities to provide relief and other help to the erosion affected people.

GAIBANDHA

One killed, 25 injured in road mishap

July 6: A man was killed and 25 others sustained injuries in two road mishaps near Jhundaha bridge at Palashbari on Dhaka-Dinajpur highway Monday last, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, a rickshaw-van puller was injured critically when a speeding coach 'Agamoni' dashed his van from behind. Another 25 passengers were injured on the same spot when a Khulna-bound coach fell into a roadside ditch.

Rickshaw-van puller Nurul Islam (25), succumbed on his way to hospital. The injured bus passengers were rushed to Palashbari hospital. The ill-fated bus fell into the ditch when the driver lost control of the vehicle.

The body was sent to morgue for postmortem and a case has been filed with local police in this connection.

BOGRA

Diarrhoea claims 50 lives

July 6: Diarrhoea claimed 50 lives and attacked several hundred others during the last 15 days creating panic among the people here, reports UNB.

According to available sources, 31 people died in Nandigram, five in Adamdighi, four in Kahaloo, three in Dhupchanchia, five in Shibganj and two in Sadar.

Local people said fresh areas are being engulfed by the disease with every passing day.

According to official sources, several medical teams have been working in the affected areas to combat the spread of the disease.

PATUAKHALI

Tk 25 lakh sanctioned for reconstruction of bridges, culverts

July 6: Government has sanctioned Taka 25 lakh for reconstruction of bridges and culverts damaged in the recent cyclone and flood in the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, another amount of Taka 12 lakh has been sanctioned for the reconstruction of the damaged houses of the district. At least 1800 bundles of CI sheets will be distributed among the distressed people under the relief and rehabilitation programme, the sources added.

Informed sources said about 1200 distressed families of the district were given cash and other inputs for reconstruction of the dwelling houses in six upazilas of the district.

Meanwhile, post-cyclone rehabilitation works in the district are going on in full swing.

KHULNA

Plea to extend outstanding tax, bills payment date

July 6: Different business organisations and trade bodies have appealed to the authorities to extend the last date for clearance of outstanding taxes and bills upto July 31, reports UNB.

The last date for clearing the arrears taxes due to the Khulna City Corporation without interest was June 30.

In a statement issued to the press recently the President, Vice President and members of the Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry urged the City Corporation Mayor to extend the date to pay off the dues considering the financial constraints faced by the tax payers due to Eid.

President Sheikh Abul Kashem also requested the Power Development Board to extend its last date of clearing electric bills for the same period to benefit the business community and people of Khulna.

President of Bangladesh Hardware and Machinery Merchants Association Khulna Circle also made similar appeal.

PANCHAGARH

2 commit suicide

July 6: Two people committed suicide in separate incidents in the district on Wednesday last police said, reports UNB.

Sayedra Khatun (14), of Sepoy Para village in Sadar upazila allegedly killed herself by taking pesticides after she bickered with her sister-in-law (brother's wife) over buying bangles.

Sayedra, a student of class eight, was scolded by her sister-in-law as she bought the bangles by selling rice.

In another incident, Ahsanuddin (45), a school teacher of Tetulia Government Primary School allegedly committed suicide by hanging.

He left a note in his room saying none was responsible for his death.

MYMENSINGH

Obituary

July 6: Prof Dr Abu Ahmed, former head of Pathology Department of Mymensingh Medical College died recently following a massive cardiac arrest at his Brahmanbaria residence in Mymensingh town.

He was 70. He left behind three sons, 4 daughters and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.



Bamboo, an important house building material is widely used in rural as well as urban areas. Though the owners of bamboo clusters do not get the fair share, the retailers earn considerable profit. Here a salesman busy cooking his day's meal on the makeshift house on a bamboo raft in the river Sitalakhya in Narayaniganj. — Star photo by Shafiquddin

Bench shortage forces students to take lessons standing in class rooms

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 6: Almost all the schools of the district have been facing problems including shortage of furniture and accommodation, lack of educational appliances and fund constraints.

There are 100 high schools in seven upazilas of the district. Of them only three are run by the government, two in Sadar upazila and one in Dewanganj upazila.

Upazila-wise break up of non-government high schools are: Sadar upazila-18, Melandah-19, Islampur-16, Sharishabari-17, Dewanganj-13, Bakshiganj-8 and Madarganj-14.

These non-government

high schools can hardly impart education to the students amidst multifarious problems.

Most of these schools established under local initiatives have not received government recognition despite having requisite facilities.

On the other hand, the schools without financial help from the government are facing closure. Accommodation crisis is another serious problem in these schools. The students are accommodated in congested rooms while many students have to attend their classes standing for hours.

The schools damaged by the natural calamities remain un-repaired which forced the stu-

dents to attend their classes under the open sky. The classes are often suspended due to bad weather. All the high schools except a few are facing acute fund crisis, as a result, the teachers are left unpaid for months.

None of the schools are provided with pure drinking water by any means which compel them to take impure water from nearby ponds and lakes.

It is widely felt that government should take immediate measures to solve the prevailing problems and should nationalise more insti-

tutions to ensure better education in the district.

CBA election of Al-Haj Jute Mills at Sharishabari town was held recently.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) supporters Abdul Hossain and Fazul Haque were elected President and General Secretary respectively.

Raj Mohammed Raj, a HSC candidate of government Ashk Mahmud College was electrocuted in front of Adamjee Jute purchasing centre in Jamalpur town recently.

He died on the spot when he caught a live electric wire fell loose from a pole.

A case has been registered with local police station.

Smuggling rampant along Sherpur border areas

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, July 6: The number of smugglers has been increased considerable in Kamalpur-Mymensingh border areas.

It is learnt that a good number of literate unemployed youngmen is involved in this activity because of poverty. Being influenced by the professional these literate younger have engaged themselves in smuggling for their livelihood vitiating the society.

It is learnt that VCR's, VCP's, copper wire, polyester clothes and other goods from Bangladesh are exchanged with Indian medicines, cloth, cosmetics, bicycles, sarces, sugar, yarn, dry chilly, salt, cinnamon, eardamom and other spices.

Sources also said, local prominent circle and some established businessmen of Sherpur town are being engaged in the smuggling.

The border belt areas of Dhanuya, Kamalpur, Dhanshyel Bazar, Karnazora, Nayeem Miyar Bazar, Sharmara, and Shanandabari under Sherpur

and Jamalpur district have become paradise of smugglers.

The law and order situation in the border areas has been deteriorated.

According to the report, killing, smuggling, dacoity hijacking, kidnapping, cattle lifting and gambling have become a frequent menace in border belt.

It is learnt that villagers have become panic-stricken and the cattle owners are passing their days and nights in cow sheds to save their cattle. The miscreants break open the doors and locks of cow sheds to lift the cattle to smuggle them to India and other parts of the country.

Gambling is going on un-

abatedly in broad daylight at different places of the district openly. Passersby and teenage boys are allured to participate in gambling.

The people of the areas expect the concerned authorities to take immediate measures to check the situation.

Besides, the local and district administration are trying to establish a crime-free area. AMK Kamaluddin, Deputy Commissioner, Sherpur, in a meeting said administration alone cannot check crimes without direct help of local public and also called upon the law enforcing agencies to be serious to bring under control the law and order situation at any cost.

Crops on 8 lakh acres damaged in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, July 6: Standing crops on about 8,00,000 acres of land in five upazilas were washed away due to the incessant downpour during the last five days. Water Development Board sources said, reports UNB.

The water level of the river Jamuna also rose 26 cm during the last 24 hours.

The affected upazilas are: Shajadpur, Chouhali, Belkuchi, Kazipur and Sadar.

Aman, Aus and jutes on about 2,00,000 acres of land in Shajadpur upazila, 1,00,000 in Belkuchi, 1,00,000 in Chouhali, 2,00,000 in Kazipur

and 2,00,000 were submerged during the period, sources added.

Another report from Pabna said, about 200 families of Nakalia and Dalarchar have been rendered homeless by the erosion by Jamuna during the last 24 hours, officials said.

Besides, 93 homes and 26 shops were also damaged by the flood water.

Flood control embankment at Nagarbari ferryghat was also threatened by the erosion.

About 1000 people of the affected areas took shelter in safer places, they added.

Chuadanga sewerage line needs expansion

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, July 6: The people of Chuadanga town have been suffering much with the on set of monsoon. The town lacks adequate drainage system. The existing drains cannot carry off refuse of houses and streets.

The low-lying areas of the town are submerged after a little shower. The roads of Chuadanga Boro Bazar, and court areas become muddy causing trouble to pedestrians.

The Public Health Engineering Department and the Pourashava have not yet taken any plan to overcome

the unhygienic condition of the town.

It is learnt that a total of 368 km sewerage line is required to drain out the rain water of the town but there is only a line of 10 km. Drains are silted up with garbage, cow dung and filths.

The sewerage scheme of the town has been shelved for want of fund.

Rain water remains stagnant in the town football field area causing an unhygienic situation and utter inconvenience to a large number of people of the area.

9 killed in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, July 6: At least nine people were killed, two guns looted in separate incidents here within 15 days ending July 1, police said, reports UNB.

Abdur Rasid Khan (45), an elite of Shabdulpur village in Kotechandpur upazila was gunned down by some unknown miscreants at the village bazar on June 16.

On June 17, some armed miscreants gunned down JSD (Inu) worker Toakkel Ali (42) of Gopalpur village in Sallakupa upazila.

Dr. Nazim Ahmed (36), and Jamat Ali (35), local leaders of Krishak Sangram Samity were shot dead by a gang of miscreants at Gobarpara village of Harinakunda upazila on June 19.

One Asaduzzaman Asha (20) of Patikpara village in Kaliganj upazila was forcibly taken away

from his house by the unknown assailants on July 1 mid night. They slaughtered him and left the body on roadside.

An old man of Ghoramara village of Sadar upazila was killed by the rival group and another youth of Kaliganj upazila was killed in blast while he was making a bomb.

In another incident, a gang of 12 armed activists belonging to an underground party looted two SBBL guns with 29 rounds of bullets from two houses on June 24.

Police also recovered two bodies — one from a wooden box and another from the river during the period.

Besides, bus dacoity, theft and pilferage are on rise vitiating the serene atmosphere in the district.

Separate cases were lodged with respective police stations.

Habiganj

A message from Habiganj adds: A youth was killed in a road accident when a mini bus dashed him from behind at Shajibazar road of Saistaganj near Sahabpur of the district.

According to police, the victim Rabintra Paul (22), of Tungashar village of Baufal upazila was killed on the spot while he was crossing the road on July 2.

Police seized the mini bus (number JA-4977) and arrested the driver.

Red Crescent executives

Election of Red Crescent Gaibandha unit was held recently.

Prof Mozharul Mannan, and Mr. Shahidur Rahman were elected Vice-President and Secretary respectively. Members are — M Moklesur Rahman, M Abdus Samad Azad, M Abdul Aziz Lal, M Abdul Mannan and M Masud Karim.

10 injured as students clash Sahajadpur Govt High School closed sine die

SIRAJGANJ, July 6: Sahajadpur Government High School has been declared closed for indefinite period on Friday last following a clash between two groups of students which left at least 10 pupils injured, police said, reports UNB.

The clash began when a group of students protested re-appointment of Iman Ali as the headmaster of the school. Assistant Judge issued an order on July 3 in favour of Iman Ali to join the school again as headmaster, who was earlier dismissed by UNO on charges of corruption.

The Assistant Judge issued the order following a case lodged by Iman Ali.

Another student group, favouring the appointment of Assistant Headmaster Osman Gani as headmaster by UNO, got involved in clash with the group supporting Iman Ali who went to join the school the same day, school sources said.

Seriously injured Masud and Ranju were rushed to the upazila health complex.

The group who opposed Iman Ali's re-appointment also ransacked the office of the Assistant Judge, police added.

Hunger strike call

Another report adds: Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) on Friday declared a 48-hour hunger strike commencing July 9 to press the authorities to reopen the

Serajganj Spinning Cotton Mills. The call was made in a massive rally at Bazar Station square here with Mohtruddin, District President of Samyabadi Dal, in the chair.

The leaders at the rally urged the mill authorities to reopen it before July 8 and in failure, they would launch stronger action programmes after the hunger strike.

The mills was declared laid-off on November 17 last.

Earlier, in the face of SKOP's action programme, local administration on May 21, assured that the mills would be reopened within 15 days. But it was never done.

Headmistress manhandled

A headmistress of a high school in Kamarkhanda upazila of the district was man handled by students and teachers Monday.

Witnesses said Firoza Khatun of Jamtal Dhopakandi High School was attacked by a group of students and teachers when she entered the school premises with a notice of permanent injunction against the Managing Committee of the school.

The incident was a sequel to the longstanding demand of the students for removal of the said headmistress. She was admitted to Kamarkhanda health centre.

Hartal call in Pabna

PABNA, July 6: Calico Cotton Mills action committee called for a half-day hartal on July 8 in protest against the closure of the mills, reports UNB.

This was announced in a largely attended meeting Tuesday held at the Town Hall with Nazrul Islam Nannu, convener of the action committee in the chair.

The mill was declared closed again a few days back

12 Chhatra League activists held in Khulna

KHULNA, July 6: Police arrested 12 activists of Chhatra League (O-A) from a procession here yesterday, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said Chhatra League brought out a procession to protest manhandling of one of their activists by some JCD persons in the town on Thursday.

JCD, however, denied the allegation.

Four shops and some vehicles including the jeep of DIG of the district were badly damaged during the procession, they added.

Siltation has caused waterlogging in various parts of the district affecting cultivation adversely.

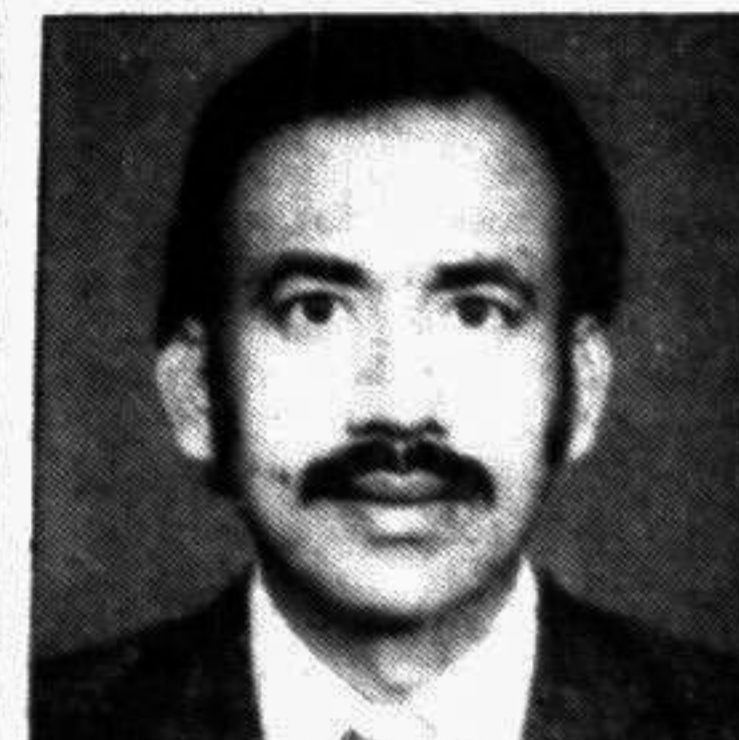
About 3,200 hectares of cropland in the southern part of Keshabpur upazila and north-western part of Dumuria upazila have become permanently water logged and inhabitants of 162 villages in those areas have been affected by siltation of Nuranian canal.

The sluice gate of Nuranian canal of 5-vent connecting the river Buri Bhadra has been rendered inoperative by siltation.

As a result, many marshes or beels including Hauskhali, Baro beel, Bagachara, Baduria, Atulia, Joglandanga, Betragam, Kaldia, Subhashini, Shirsant, Madanpur, Jatpur, Aladiapur and other adjacent beels have become permanently water logged.

Rice cultivation may not be possible in these lands unless Nuranian canal is excavated again and sluice gate made operative.

Engineers of Bangladesh Water Development Board said that about 1300 hectares of cropland including 162 villages of three upazilas will get ample facilities of cultivation if the canal is re-excavated.



BAU teacher awarded Ph D

AGRI-VARISTY (Mymensingh), July 6: M Atawar Rahman, Associate Professor, Department of Micro-biology and Hygiene of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) has been awarded Ph D degree for his thesis 'Bacterial isolates related to water pollution and their plasmids implicating drug resistance hazards.' The BAU Syndicate in a meeting held recently had accorded its approval to this regard, says a press release.

Dr M Mafizur Rahman, Professor and Head of the Department of Micro-biology and Hygiene was his research-guide, while an important portion of the research work was done under the supervision of Professor Karim Ippen Iher of Texas A & M University of USA with financial assistance from BARC and USAID.



CHITTAGONG: Volunteers of Asian Friendship Society Bangladesh erecting houses at village Gahira (Hariarpara) under Anowara Upazila for the cyclone victims. — Star photo